



H1N1 Response: Glossary of Terms for Healthcare Providers

ACS: Stands for “Alternate Care Site” under Rhode Island’s Healthcare Service Region (HSR) model. Alternate Care Sites are managed by the lead hospital in each HSR and are typically located in public school gymnasiums or similar large-capacity facilities. They are used to treat some patients if the rate of illness in the general population overwhelms the capacity of hospitals. An ACS may also be used as a point-of-dispensing (POD) center for vaccines.

Adjuvant: A substance added to a vaccine to improve the immune response. This means that less vaccine is needed to provide protection.

Antibody: A protein produced by the body’s immune system in response to a foreign substance (antigen). Our bodies fight off infection by producing antibodies.

Antigen: Any foreign substance (usually a protein) that stimulates the body’s immune system to produce antibodies. The name antigen reflects its role in stimulating an immune response – “antibody generating.”

Antigenic Drift: One process by which an influenza virus can mutate. The amount of change can be subtle or dramatic, but as drift occurs, a new strain of the virus becomes dominant. This process allows influenza viruses to change and re-infect people repeatedly through their lifetime and is the reason influenza virus strains in vaccine must be updated each year.

Antigenic Shift: Another way an influenza virus can change. Antigenic shift occurs in a virus when new or different proteins replace existing proteins. This process changes the existing flu virus into a “new” form of flu. Most people do not have any antibody protection built up against these new viruses. This makes it harder for their immune systems to fight off disease.

Antiviral: A drug used to prevent or cure a disease caused by a virus. The drug works by keeping viruses from reproducing in your body. Influenza antiviral drugs work best when started within 2 days of the onset of illness. Four influenza antiviral drugs are available in the United States (oseltamivir, zanamivir, amantadine, and rimantadine). The CDC recommends the use of oseltamivir (brand name Tamiflu) or zanamivir (brand name Relenza) to treat and/or prevent infection with H1N1 flu viruses. Amantadine and rimantadine will not work against H1N1 flu viruses.

CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC is a U.S. government agency and one of the major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services. See <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> for more information about the H1N1 Flu situation in the United States.

Epidemic: A disease occurring suddenly in humans in a community, region, or country in numbers clearly in excess of normal.

HSR: Stands for Healthcare Service Region. HEALTH and ten acute care hospitals created an HSR model to manage regional healthcare resources during a major public health event. In the HSR model, the state is divided into ten roughly equal (by population) regions. A lead hospital coordinates all healthcare services within each region.

H1N1 Flu: A new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in the U.S. in April 2009. It has spread to many countries around the world and has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Immunity: The condition that permits either natural or acquired resistance to disease

Influenza (Flu): A serious disease caused by viruses that infect the respiratory tract.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI): A respiratory illness whose symptoms (fever plus cough or fever plus sore throat) resemble those of influenza and have no known cause other than influenza.

Mutation: A change in the natural state of a gene. Influenza viruses are unpredictable and change constantly over time. The immune system may not recognize a virus in its changed form, making it harder for the body to fight off infection.

Pandemic: The worldwide outbreak of a disease in humans in numbers clearly in excess of normal.

Pneumonia: Inflammation of the lungs, frequently due to infection. Pneumonia is one of the primary complications of influenza.

PPSV: The most common type of pneumonia vaccine. Another type of pneumonia vaccine, PCV, is routinely recommended for children under 5 years of age.

POD: Stands for “point-of-dispensing” site. HEALTH expects to set up PODs in each Healthcare Service Region (HSR). Some people may be able to receive the H1N1 vaccine at these PODs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses the term “point-of-distribution,” or POD, to refer to a temporary local facility that distributes supplies directly to disaster victims.

Seasonal influenza: A respiratory illness that can be transmitted from person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available. This is also known as the common flu or winter flu.

Social Distancing: A public health best practice designed to reduce the spread of influenza from person to person by decreasing opportunities for close contact among members of the community. Social distancing measures may include maintaining a personal distance between yourself and persons showing signs of illness, limiting large gatherings, and closing schools, childcare centers, and public facilities.

Vaccine: A preparation consisting of small amounts of weakened or killed disease cells. When these cells are injected into the body, they stimulate the production of antibodies, causing immunity to the disease. Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to protect people from illness during influenza epidemics.

Virulent: Causing severe illness and death.

WHO: World Health Organization, an agency of the United Nations established in 1948 to further international cooperation in improving health conditions. See <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html> for more information about the global response to the H1N1 pandemic and the current international situation.

Incident Command System (ICS)

Agency: A division of government with a specific function or a nongovernmental organization that offers a particular kind of assistance. In ICS, agencies are defined as jurisdictional (having legal responsibility for incident mitigation) or as assisting and/or cooperating (providing resources and/or assistance).

Emergency: Any incident that requires responsive action to protect life or property. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, an emergency means any occasion or instance for which, in the determination of the President, Federal assistance is needed to supplement State and local efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of catastrophe in any part of the United States.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility.

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP): The plan that each jurisdiction has and maintains for responding to appropriate hazards.

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS): a nationally-recognized, predetermined ICS structure used by hospitals to pre-identify the branches, groups, and units needed for an incident.

Incident: An occurrence or event, natural or human-caused, that requires an emergency response to protect life or property.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized on-scene emergency management system. ICS is the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure, designed to aid in the management of resources during incidents. It is used for all kinds of emergencies and is applicable to small as well as large and complex incidents. HEALTH has activated the Incident Command System in response to the H1N1 pandemic.

Mitigation: The activities designed to reduce or eliminate risks to persons or property or to lessen the actual or potential consequences of an incident. Mitigation measures may be implemented prior to, during, or after an incident and are often formed by lessons learned from prior incidents.

National Incident Management System (NIMS): A set of principles that provides a consistent nationwide approach for government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of incidents, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity.

Preparedness: The range of deliberate, critical tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the operational capability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents.

Prevention: Actions to avoid an incident or to intervene to stop an incident from occurring.

Recovery: The development, coordination, and execution of service- and site-restoration plans; the reconstitution of government operations and services; individual, private-sector,

nongovernmental, and public-assistance programs to promote restoration; long-term care and treatment of affected persons; additional measures for social, political, environmental, and economic restoration; evaluation of the incident to identify lessons learned; post-incident reporting; and development of initiatives to mitigate the effects of future incidents.

Response: Activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs. Response also includes the execution of emergency operations plans and of mitigation activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and other unfavorable outcomes.

Special Population: A population whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who are elderly; who are children; who are from diverse cultures, who have limited English proficiency or are non-English-speaking; or who are lack transportation options.

Common Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
ACIP	Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
CBEP	Center for Biodefense and Emerging Pathogens
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEPR	Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response
CPHC	Center for Public Health Communication
CRI	Communities Readiness Initiative
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DHS	Department of Human Services (Rhode Island)
DHS	Department of Homeland Security (Federal)
DMAT	Disaster Medical Assistance Team
DMORT	Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team
DOA	Department of Administration
DOC	Department Operations Center
ED	Emergency Department
EIL	Emergency Information Line
EMA	Emergency Management Agency
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operation Plan
ESAR-VHP	Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals
EUA	Emergency Use Authorization

FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
HAN	Health Area Network
HARI	Hospital Association of Rhode Island
HEALTH	Rhode Island Department of Health
HIC	Health Information Center
HPF	Health Policy Forum
HPP	Hospital Preparedness Program
HSR	Healthcare Service Region
ICS	Incident Command System
ID	Infectious Disease
ILI	Influenza-Like Illness
IND	Investigational New Drug
MEDS	Medical Emergency Distribution System
NDMS	National Disaster Medical System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
PHEP	Public Health Emergency Preparedness (CDC Grant)
PHER	Public Health Emergency Response (H1N1 Response Grant)
PIO	Public Information Officer
POC	Point of Contact
PODS	Point of Dispensing Site
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RIEMA	Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
RISP	Rhode Island State Police
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SNS	Strategic National Stockpile
VAERS	Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System
VIS	Vaccine Information Statement
WHO	World Health Organization